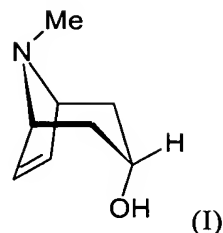


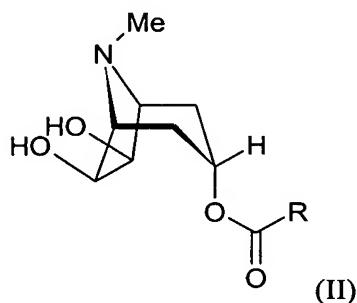
CLAIMS

We Claim:

1) A process for preparing tropenol (I):

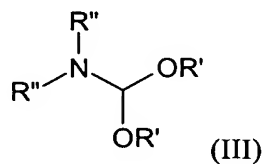


optionally in the form of an acid addition salt thereof, said process comprising:
reacting a compound of formula (II)



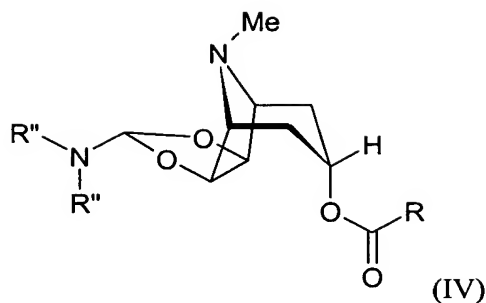
wherein

R denotes a group selected from C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₂-C₆-alkenyl and C₁-C₄-alkylene-phenyl, each of which may be substituted by hydroxy or C₁-C₄-alkoxy, optionally in the form of an acid addition salt thereof or a hydrate thereof, in a suitable solvent with a formamide-acetal of formula (III)



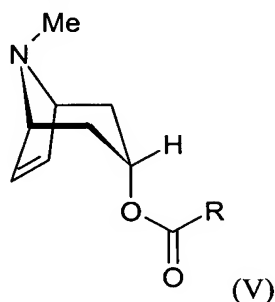
wherein

R' denotes C₁-C₄-alkyl and R'' denotes a group selected from C₁-C₄-alkyl and C₁-C₄-alkylene-phenyl, to obtain a compound of formula IV



wherein R and R'' are as defined above;

decarboxylating the compound of formula (IV) to obtain an ester of formula (V)



- 5 wherein R is as defined above; and saponifying the compound of formula (V) to obtain the compound of formula (I), which is optionally converted into an acid addition salt thereof by reaction with a suitable acid.

- 2) A process according to claim 1, wherein in the compound of formula (II) R denotes
10 C₁-C₄-alkyl or C₂-C₄-alkenyl, optionally in the form of an acid addition salt thereof or a hydrate thereof, and wherein in the formamide-acetal of formula (III) the groups R' represent methyl or ethyl and the groups R'' represent methyl, ethyl or propyl.

- 15 3) A process according to claim 1, wherein in the compound of formula (II) R denotes 1-propenyl, 2-propenyl, 1-buten-1-yl, 1-buten-2-yl, 1-buten-3-yl, 1-buten-4-yl, 2-buten-1-yl or 2-buten-2-yl, optionally in the form of an acid addition salt thereof or a hydrate thereof, and wherein in the formamide-acetal of formula (III) the groups R' and R'' represent methyl or ethyl.

- 4) A process according to claim 3, wherein in the compound of formula (II) R denotes 2-buten-2-yl.
- 5) A process according to claim 3, wherein in the compound of formula (III) R' and
5 R'' represent methyl.
- 6) A process according to claim 3, wherein in the compound of formula (II) R denotes 2-buten-2-yl and in the compound of formula (III) R' and R'' represent methyl.

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